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Seminar Series on the Ideas, Identities, and Decisional Processes that Affect Security

John O'Loughlin

"The Wikileaks Afghanistan War Logs: A Boon or Bane for Academic Research?"

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Noon

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

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John O'Loughlin
Professor of Geography
University of Colorado

John O'Loughlin is college professor of distinction, professor of geography and faculty research associate at the Institutions Program, Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado. His research interests are in the spatial analysis of conflict including the relationship between climate/environmental change and conflict as well as in the political geography of the post-Soviet Union, including Russian and Ukrainian geopolitics, Eurasian quasi-states, and ethno-territorial nationalisms.

He has also published on the diffusion of democracy, electoral geography, and the electoral geography of Nazi Germany. He is editor-in-chief of *Political Geography* and editor of *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. O'Loughlin teaches undergraduate classes in Political Geography, Geographies of Global Change, and the Geography of Western Europe, and graduate classes in Political Geography. He serves on the Advisory Committee of the International Affairs undergraduate program. He also serves on the National Geographic Society's Committee on Research and Exploration.

John O'Loughlin received his Ph.D. in Geography from the Pennsylvania State University in 1973.

Abstract

The findings of a spatial analysis of the 77,000 secret war logs released by Wikileaks in summer 2010 are reviewed in the context of a broader review of the dynamics of conflict in Afghanistan-Pakistan. The reaction to the published paper *in Eurasian Geography and Economics*, Vol. 51 no. 4, 2010, the advisability of analyzing the confidential data by academics, and the wider issues of people's right to know versus state security secrets are presented as an invitation for a discussion and debate.

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1501 Neil Ave.

Columbus, OH 43201

Phone: 614.292.1681 614.292.1681

Fax: 614.292.2407

Email: mershoncenter@osu.edu